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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,980	08/10/2006	Daisuke Shirai	3557G-000068/US/NP	4632

27572 7590 01/24/2008
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EXAMINER

TRAN, BINH Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3748

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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01/24/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/588,980

Applicant(s)

SHIRAI ET AL.

Examiner

BINH Q. TRAN

Art Unit

3748

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/10/2006, 02/21/2007.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. More specifically,

- In claims 1 and 4, the phase “*etc.*” renders the claim indefinite.

The claims not specifically mentioned are indefinite since they depended from one of the above claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Pawson et al. (Pawson) (Patent Number 6,722,124).

Regarding claims 1 and 4, Pawson discloses an SCR muffler (1) which comprises: an SCR catalyst (12) for selectively reducing and purging nitrogen oxide (NO_x) contained in exhaust gas; an exhaust pipe (2) that allows the exhaust gas to flow into the SCR catalyst (12); and a reducing agent (9), etc., supplying nozzle (9) that supplies a reducing agent or a reducing agent precursor to the exhaust gas, characterized in that the reducing agent, etc., supplying nozzle is of a double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 18-67; col. 4, lines 1-43).

Regarding claims 2 and 5, Pawson further discloses a heat retaining material (7) is provided in between an inner pipe and an outer pipe that form the double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 18-67; col. 4, lines 1-43).

Regarding claims 3 and 6, Pawson further discloses that there is a space (7) defined between an inner pipe and an outer pipe that form the double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-3; col. 3, lines 18-67; col. 4, lines 1-43).

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Rusch et al. (Rusch) (Patent Number 6,442,933).

Regarding claims 1 and 4, Rusch discloses an SCR muffler (2) which comprises: an SCR catalyst (16, 18) for selectively reducing and purging nitrogen oxide (NO_x) contained in exhaust gas; an exhaust pipe (8) that allows the exhaust gas to flow into the SCR catalyst (16, 18); and a reducing agent (4, 12), etc., supplying nozzle (12) that supplies a reducing agent or a reducing agent precursor to the exhaust gas, characterized in that the reducing agent, etc., supplying nozzle is of a double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-2; col. 3, lines 42-67; col. 4, lines 1-50).

Regarding claims 2 and 5, Rusch further discloses a heat retaining material (22, 30) is provided in between an inner pipe and an outer pipe that form the double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-2; col. 3, lines 42-67; col. 4, lines 1-50).

Regarding claims 3 and 6, Rusch further discloses that there is a space (23) defined between an inner pipe and an outer pipe that form the double pipe structure (e.g. See Figs. 1-2; col. 3, lines 42-67; col. 4, lines 1-50).

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and consists of five patents:

Stiermann et al. (Pat. No. 7017336), Liu et al. (Pat. No. 6722123), Verdegan et al. (Pat. No. 6601385), Bareis et al. (Pat. No. 5771689), and Oshima et al. (Pat. No. 5272871) all discloses an exhaust gas purification for use with an internal combustion engine.

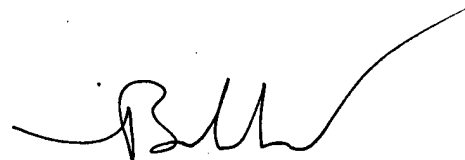
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Binh Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-4865. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas E. Denion, can be reach on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BT
January 21, 2008



Binh Q. Tran
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3748